

UC Regents Set Stage for Firing of Angela Davis

Rehiring Recommendation by Young Overruled; Final Decision Put Off to June 15

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SAN FRANCISCO — The UC Board of Regents Friday overruled UCLA Chancellor Charles E. Young in the Angela Davis case and set the stage for firing the Communist philosophy professor next month.

Young strongly recommended reappointment of Prof. Davis, a 26-year-old black activist, for a second year as an acting assistant professor at the Westwood campus. He was supported by UC President Charles J. Hitch.

However, the regents, in a two-hour closed door session, voted 15 to 6 to relieve Hitch and Young "of any further authority or responsibility" in the Davis case.

Instead, the board, acting as a committee of the whole, will "review the record relating to this matter and recommend appropriate action to the board at its next regular meeting" June 19.

As Chancellor Young left the meeting, he said he was "disappointed and disheartened" by the regents' action.

"I think it was the wrong decision," he said.

Asked if he thought the campus would remain peaceful in face of the regents' action, Young replied, "I don't know. I hope so."

Hitch Opposes Action

President Hitch said he opposed the action because it undermines the authority of the nine campus chancellors.

"I feel authority over nontenured appointments had been properly delegated to the campuses," Hitch said. "I don't like the precedent."

Regents' Chairman DeWitt A. Higgs said the board took over the Davis case "to thoroughly review the record in its entirety."

He denied the decision was postponed until June because there will be few students on UC campuses then or because the June 2 primary election will be over.

However, several regents pointed out that the Davis case has been before the board since last fall. They said Gov. Reagan and his followers sought to postpone the decision for a month to avoid exacerbating campus tensions and to avoid political embarrassment.

In his report, Chancellor Young stressed that all the faculty groups

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and administrators who reviewed the case had recommended that Professor Davis be reappointed for a second year on an acting basis.

He said "there are no permissible grounds for refusal" to reappoint.

But the board disagreed. Regents voting to overrule Chancellor Young were Gov. Reagan, Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke, Higgs, W. Glenn Campbell, John E. Canady, Allan Grant, Catherine Hearst and John H. Lawrence.

Also, Joseph A. Moore Jr., Edwin W. Pauley, Robert O. Reynolds, Norton Simon, William French Smith, Dean A. Watkins and Wendell W. Witter.

Regents who opposed the action were William K. Coblentz, Frederick G. Dutton, William E. Forbes, Hitch, Elinor Heller and William M. Roth.

Assembly Speaker Robert T. Monagan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Max Rafferty and Regent Edward W. Carter were absent.

After the meeting, Dutton told reporters the action was "a star chamber proceeding."

He noted that earlier in

the day, regents had praised students on the nine UC campuses for their generally peaceful protests against U.S. policy in Southeast Asia and the killing of four university students in Ohio.

"Then we see a bunch of old men on this Board of Regents start to throw Molotov cocktails into the spirit of moderation," Dutton said.